



VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES FAX COVER SHEET

To: RENATA HESSE

Organization: ANTITRUST DIVISION - US DEPT OF JUSTICE

FAX Number: (202) 616-9937 Phone Number: ()

Local ☐ Long Distance ☒ Number of Pages including this cover sheet: 2

From: DELEGATE THOMAS DAVIS RUST

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Comments: _____

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THOMAS DAVIS RUST
730 ELDON STREET
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EIGHTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

January 17, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street, N.W. #1200
Washington, D. C. 20530
By Facsimile: (202) 616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As the Delegate for the 86th District in Northern Virginia, I am writing to encourage you to approve the settlement agreement in the case of United States v. Microsoft.

Northern Virginia has been fortunate to attract a diverse and wide-ranging number of technology firms over the past 10 years, and with those firms choosing to locate here, we have insured our area's continued growth and future prosperity. While I have varied business interests across my district, the bottom line is that the settlement is a boon to our state's economy and for the economy of the nation as a whole.

Being a technology-friendly state put Virginia on the map again with the emerging IT industry in the 1990's. As IT has blossomed and flourished, our state has reaped the benefits as well. We embraced the new economy and profited from the relationship. Government should not be an inhibitor, but rather an enabler of consumers, entrepreneurs, and the marketplace.

Technology empowers individuals, both here in the Commonwealth and beyond. It gives individuals previously unimagined opportunities to participate in the economy. It opens the door of opportunity to many including women in business who are harnessing the power of the IT economy and to children who are empowered with the learning and teaching potential of the Internet.

More than half of all Internet traffic travels through Virginia. In my district alone, there are hundreds of high-tech firms all relying on consumers, and beholden for their survival to the competitive system that Americans so cherish. This proposed settlement is tough, yet reasonable, and a valuable tool in bringing stability back to our economy. It is my hope that the Court will approve the proposed settlement between Microsoft and nine plaintiffs in the anti-trust case against it, including the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "THOMAS DAVIS RUST". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "R" and "T".

Thomas Davis Rust